

Veterans Committee Minutes
July 6, 2015 - 3:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman Kinowski; Supervisors Tollisen, Allen, Barrett, Jenkins, Lucia, Collyer and Martin; Frank McClement, Veterans Director; Chad Cooke, Deputy Administrator.

Chairman Kinowski called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

On a motion made by Mr. Collyer, seconded by Mr. Jenkins the minutes of the May 4, 2015 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. McClement gave a brief overview of the Veterans Service Officer Report as follows:

- Forty Six new claims were assembled and submitted for May and June
- Seventy Nine scheduled appointments were conducted
- There were 26 walk in clients
- There were 11 DSS referrals

Veterans Outreach Events

- 5/11 - Transition Assistance Program - NAVY Site
- 5/19 - Van Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
- 6/3 - Saratoga County American Legion Meeting
- 6/8 - Veterans Outreach - Waterford Public Library
Six Veterans in attendance resulting in three appointments for benefits
- 6/15 - Transition Assistance Program - NAVY Site

Saratoga County Veterans Transportation

- Van Transportation provided 221 rides for March and April

Veterans Trust Fund

- Balance on hand of \$29,910.35
VSO Paul Mosseau - 50th birthday raised \$250 (not included in this total)
- Application consideration

Peer to Peer Summary

- Funding - @\$60,000 expired from first round reinstated
- 5/13 - Jail Educators Conference
- Family day June 20th

- Saratoga County Vets and Pets - Starting this month
- Vets Night, Concert - October 16th

Honor our Deceased Veterans

- May - Dante Orsini - Town of Moreau
- June - Stephen Krondat - Town of Providence
- July - Donald Gilchrist - Town of Milton (WWII - Merrill's Marauders)

Mr. McClement said the current balance in the Veterans Trust Fund is \$29,910.35.

Mr. McClement said there were three bouts of funding that were received from the Peer to Peer Program. He said approximately \$60,000 of the first bout of funding expired in June of 2014. He said after writing to the State the funding was reinstated. He said Amy Hughes, Program Coordinator for the Peer to Peer Program, Sergeant Rodriguez from the Sheriff's Department, and he spoke at the NYS Jail Educators Conference that was held in Saratoga Springs about what is being done with incarcerated Veterans at the Saratoga County Jail.

Mr. McClement said a Family Fun Day was held on June 20th. He said the Saratoga County Vets and Pets program will begin at the Animal Shelter with a couple of Veterans already taking advantage of the program. He said that Veterans who are in the Peer to Peer Program can go to the Animal Shelter and serve some Volunteer hours to obtain training. If they identify with an animal that they would like to have as a companion animal, the Veterans Agency will help that individual to not only adopt the animal, but also have the animal certified as a companion animal. He said companion animals are recognized throughout the country and are allowed to do certain travel and other things where other animals would be restricted.

Mr. McClement said the Veterans Night/Concert will be held on October 16th at the City Center in the City of Saratoga Springs, which will be a combination of Veterans Assistance Night and entertainment. He said local patriotic groups are being looked at as well as some local popular musician groups. The event will be funded through the Peer to Peer funding.

The Deceased Veterans Ceremony for July will be honoring Mr. Donald Gilchrest from The Town of Milton.

On a motion made by Mr. Barrett, seconded by Mr. Jenkins the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom